

## DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
for 1943

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

This Report the fifth of the War Period is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in a Ministry of Health Circular dated 15th February, 1944, which directs that it shall be drawn up on similar lines to previous War-time Reports and confined to essential matters affecting the health of the people and particularly those arising out of the War. On this occasion the Minister also requires a few particulars regarding the sufficiency and quality of the Water Supply of the District.

Another War-time year has come and gone and there is not much to show for it and little of interest to record.

From a Public Health standpoint there is little to complain of. Apart from a sharp epidemic of a mild type of influenza in the autumn months the year can be regarded as a normal one and there were no untoward incidents to disturb the atmosphere of peace and quiet which is usual to the town. May it so continue is our hope..

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In this respect it has been a good year as of the 26 notified cases 19 were due to measles. A notable feature was the entire absence of Diphtheria and there can be little doubt that the large number of children who have been protected against this dangerous disease by immunisation has had a lot to do with it.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Measles	19	0	0
Scarlet-fever	4	3	0
Erysipelas	1	0	0
Pneumonia	1	0	0
Typhoid	1	1	1

Tuberculosis - Cases notified during the year - 4. There were no deaths.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This has continued throughout the year. Altogether 140 children completed the course, 89 being under 5 and 51 over 5. It is now estimated that of the 517 children in the District under 5 the percentage immunised is 60, and of the 1000 school children (that is over 5) the percentage works out at 95. The combined percentage of 77 is reasonably good.

Contagious Skin Disease Hostel at Sunrise functioned throughout the year and up to August admitted both In-patients and Out-patients. After that month as the numbers had fallen so low Out-patients only were treated and the few who needed In-patient treatment were sent to the Hostel at Newton Abbot.

The following numbers received treatment:-

#### Inpatients

Dawlish - 8. Teignmouth - 29. Total 43.

#### Outpatients

Dawlish - 129. Teignmouth - 144. Total 273.

(Dawlish In-patients sent to Newton Abbot - 9)  
(Included in the above are 84 adults)

### THE EVACUEES

There has been a considerable decrease in numbers especially among the adults. On the 31st December last, there were 145 adults and 441 children. These numbers include 319 unaccompanied children and 45 adults with 76 children in Requisitioned houses of which there are eight. The rest of the children are in private billets accompanied by their mothers.

### WATER SUPPLY

Recent expenditure of £35,000 has given the District a supply far in excess of its present needs and the adoption of the most modern methods for filtering and sterilising has resulted in a product the quality of which could not be improved on. The supply is constant and of the 2,200 houses in the District 94 per cent are directly connected - most of the remainder are served by standpipes.

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## VITAL STATISTICS

Population 7059 (a decrease of 338).

### Live Births

Male 46 (Illegitimate 3) - Female 34 (Illegitimate 1)  
Total - 80

Birth Rate = 11.3. 10 year average 10.2.  
England and Wales 16.5.

### Still Births

Male 2 (Illegitimate 1) - Female 1 - Total 3  
Still Birth Rate = 36 per 1000 total Births.

### Deaths

Male 43 - Female 52 - Total 95  
Death Rate = 13.4. England and Wales 12.1.

### Infant Mortality (under 1 year)

Male 1 (Illegitimate) - Female 1 - Total 2  
A rate of 25 per 1000 live births

England and Wales Rate 49 per 1000 live births

Maternal Mortality (child birth) - Nil.

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